COMIC SHOP NEWS™
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Love in Bloom

The late 1960s were a challenging time for comics fans and creators. The art form was beginning to gain respectability, but most people continued to dismiss it as "kid's stuff," inspired in part by the campy ***Batman*** series, which locked comics into the *Zap! Pow!* mindset for years to come. It was a great time for talented creators who wanted to push comics in new directions—creators like *Neal Adams, Bernie Wrightson, Barry Windsor-Smith, and Michael Wm Kaluta...*

And then there's Ramsey.

Ramsey is the central character in ***Bloom #1,*** the kickoff issue of a four-part series by *Ted Sikora* and *Butch K. Mapa.* He dreams of being a comic book artist—but he also dreams of magical glyphs and nightmarish figures and surreal events. Creatively, he'd like to incorporate those latter dreams into his comic book career... but things don't always go exactly according to plan.

"Ramsey is an auto mechanic by day and a struggling comic book creator by night," creator/writer *Ted Sikora* explained. "His fiancée is Patty, a very sensible gal who generally has had enough of Ramsey going on and on about his characters during every dinner conversation.

"Ramsey's been frustrated by the design of his new villain. It's something that has eluded him ever since inspiration struck when he was in the forest under the influence of a chemical substance and subsequently bombarded by magical glyphs. Ramsey managed to make very detailed sketches of the glyphs, and he's been trying to implement them in a graphic way on his female villain."

Combining the glyphs and the female villain proves challenging—but that changes with a chance discovery. "Ramsey finds a female-form mannequin in an antique shop, and it occurs to him that painting the symbols on an actual mannequin would be a much better way of understanding the look of his villain from all angles. (On a side note, this is exactly what I did when I created Regina for the ***Apama*** series.) When Patty comes home and sees the mannequin with creepy black painted symbols all over it, she's pretty freaked out."

Patty may be troubled by the illustrated mannequin, but that's nothing compared to the trouble that's about to come her and Ramsey's way. "Ramsey, Patty, and two of their friends are at a street fair where they happen upon a wild progressive rock band with Regina as a backup singer. During guitar solos, Regina entertains the crowd with dancing like no one has ever seen. The crowd is spellbound—especially Ramsey. After the performance, Ramsey asks her if she would be willing to model for him as his comic book villain. Regina finds the request hilarious and agrees to meet him for a shoot in the woods. (On a side note, this is just like a situation where I met a tribal dancer and asked her to pose for photos in the forest as my villain.)"

What begins as an artist/model relationship begins to change soon after Ramsey and Regina venture into the woods. "Once Ramsey has the photos he needs, he's pretty much ready to go back home. Regina, however, keeps pushing to explore the villain further. She ends up wanting more out of this than Ramsey does. On the one hand, Ramsey is flattered. On the other hand, enough is enough."

By the end of the first issue, ***Bloom*** could be a period-piece character-driven tale of romance and desire—but rest assured, there are some unexpected twists to come. "With apologies to Mr Morrison, Regina is about to break on through to the other side. Ramsey is trapped. How do you find your way out of the woods when the person walking besides you is growing in power by the second and wants nothing to do with leaving? The dynamic between these two is constantly changing, and Ramsey has four issues to figure it out."

For Sikora, the setting as almost as important as the characters in this intense tale. "I find the end of the hippie movement to be fascinating. There's a lot of lessons in it, along with very diverse swirling energies. I wanted to create a character that belonged to that moment in time. Her thing is, 'We tried to change the world peacefully in the '60s, and it didn't stick. Now we're going to do it on *my* terms.'"

Find out what those terms are in ***Bloom #1*** from Hero Tomorrow, an extra-length full-color $3.99 comic by *Ted Sikora & Butch K. Mapa,* scheduled for April 7th release.

New Life for Fantastic Four

Back in 2019, Marvel enthralled readers with an amazing new real-time look at Peter Parker's time as Spider-Man in ***Spider-Man: Life Story,*** which followed Peter's 60-year career from its beginnings in 1962 to its end in the present day. Now Marvel is returning to the real-time concept with ***Fantastic Four: Life Story,*** a series that will similarly follow the FF as they age in real time from their beginnings in 1961 until today.

As Marvel puts it in its announcement of the series, "***Fantastic Four: Life Story*** will tell the entire history of the Fantastic Four from beginning to end, set against the key events of the decades through which their stories were published. ***Fantastic Four: Life Story #1*** will take place in the 'Swinging Sixties' when Reed, Ben, Sue, and Johnny took that fateful journey to space that changed the face of comic book storytelling forever.

Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Against the backdrop of the Cold War and the Space Race, a terrible accident occurs that gives them great powers and a terrible secret, entangling them in Earth's history forever as they transform into the world's premiere superhero team."

"What I've always loved about the Fantastic Four is how it reduces the cosmic struggle of human survival to the scale of a family squabble while treating personal relationships as a matter of truly galactic importance," writer *Mark Russell* said. "Weaving their story and their world into our story and what's happened in our world over the last 60 years was an important reminder to me of how smart it is to approach life like that."

"Working on a story about Marvel's First Family is not only an honor in itself, but what makes it even more so is being part of the team that gets to tell such a moving and heartfelt story about these iconic characters, their struggles and triumphs in a new way that draws on what has come before," artist *Sean Izaakse* added. "If I do my job right, this story will be one that Fantastic Four fans will remember for a long, long time."

Fantastic Four: Life Story #1 is scheduled for May release.

Coming Comics—Vault in May

With Sybil's fate uncertain, Kat at last faces off with Clementine Biddle in ***Autumnal #8*** (by *Daniel Kraus & Chris Shehan*), the series finale.

The Blue Flame is a cosmic hero. The Blue Flame is a DIY vigilante who fights crime on the streets of Milwaukee. The Blue Flame is a blue-collar HVAC repairman named Sam Brausam. In the wake of a horrific tragedy, the boundaries of the Blue Flame's identity blur even further in ***The Blue Flame #1*** (by *Christopher Cantwell & Adam Gorham*). Now, before a universal trial, the Blue Flame must prove that humanity is worth saving. But in order to do that, Sam Brausam has to save himself. Can he?

Visions of a dark and fantastic world haunt Paul Tanasin, but when he discovers

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they are prophecies from Mirandus—a world in which he's destined to become a fearsome destroyer—he'll have to embrace the fear, rise up as the Dark One, and shatter everything in ***Dark One Volume 1 HC***, a 224-page graphic novel by *Collins Kelly, Jackson Lanzing, & Brandon Sanderson.*

Turns out you can't escape love triangles, even in the afterlife. As Bill and Sharon find common ground, Slim starts to feel that what could have been Paradise is now looking more like Paradise Lost in ***Heavy #7*** (by *Max Bemis & Eryk Donovan*). Desperate not to lose the afterlife family he's built, Slim takes Bill on a mission into the darkest corner of existence: a vulnerable conversation between two men with eight million years of emotional baggage.

All is lost. Jacey failed to take her revenge. So what does she have left? Find out in ***I Walk with Monsters #6*** (by *Paul Cornell & Sally Cantirino*).

As the XXX-plorers reel from the loss of one of their members (no sexual double-entendre intended), they face a major budget shortfall and a lack of desire to keep the hits coming in ***Money Shot #11*** (by *Tim Seeley, Sara Beattie, Rebekah Isaacs, & Caroline Leigh Layne*).

There can be only one future—and as two artists work feverishly to cast it in their own image in ***Picture of Everything Else #5*** (by *Dan Watters & Kishore Mohan*), they threaten instead to tear it asunder as easily as canvas. The end of the world, perhaps, or simply the end of art—indeed, who could tell the difference?

As refugees from Kinscreek seek to undertake the perilous journey to the settlement at Bakers Town, the Daytripper must carry their missives while daylight still lingers in the sky. But the wastelands that lie in between can be a dangerous place. So come traverse the desolate places with Rufus and Crow on a two-wheel road-trip with Radio Apocalypse for company in ***Radio Apocalypse #2*** (by *Ram V & Anand Radhakrishnan*).

A member of the Twin Cities Court is destroyed, and vampire hunters are running rampant. The Court wants Cecily Bain and her fake fledgling, Ali, to find out who's behind it all in ***Vampire: The Masquerade #8*** (by *Blake Howard, Tini Howard, Tim Seeley, Nathan Gooden, & Dev Pramanik*). The only problem? Cecily is starting to think Ali might be the one responsible...

The Hounds of Love are hunting. Next stop: San Sangre, the stomping grounds of curse hunters and gunslingers. But with a special kind of horror watching from the utility sheds, do our vampire biker dirtbags know what they're getting themselves into? Find out in ***Witchblood #3*** (by *Matthew Erman & Lisa Sterle*).

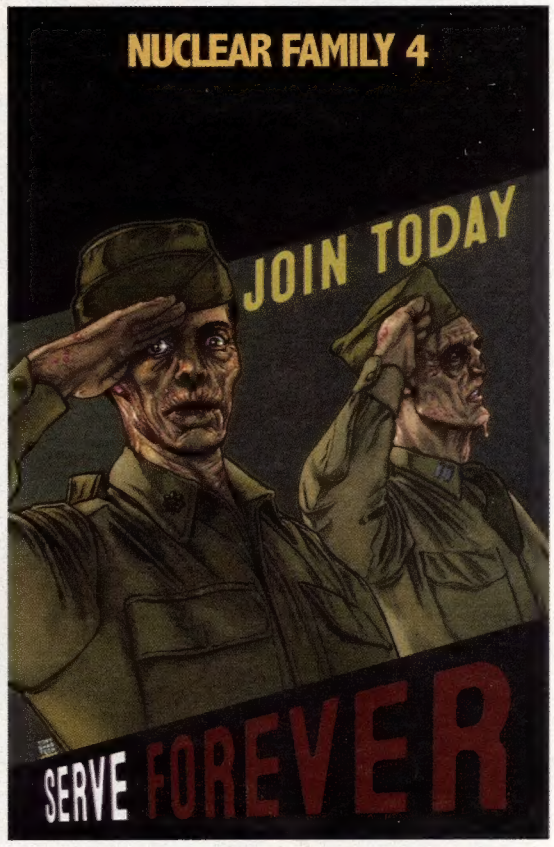
Coming Comics—AfterShock in May

The end is coming. The forces are aligned. The inevitable is nigh. The apocalypse is here in ***Babyteeth #17*** (by *Donny Cates & Garry Brown*), the first of four *monthly* issues that wrap up this shocking horror series.

Tattoo artist Niles lives his life in a kind of daze. Minute after minute, he muddles through the repetitive moments of his job, his life, and his guilt. All that changes when Eden walks through the doors of the tattoo shop. She's looking for something different... and she finds it with Niles. But Eden is a woman surrounded by deep mysteries... not the least of which is how and why her new tattoos vanish after only a few days. As Niles learns more, he is driven to fathomless depths of both love and horror in ***Eden,*** a prestige-format oneshot by *Cullen Bunn & Dalibor Talajic.*

The girls go into training under the tutelage of the wizard/dog, Pitch, to master their mystical skills in ***Girls of Dimension 13 #2*** (by *Graham Nolan & Bret Blevins*). And not a moment too soon, as the mysterious Levi Skeggs and his minions come gunning for the girls to take "the chosen one" to the dimensional demon, Abraxis!

The door to the Gelbacut Underland is open in ***I Breathed a Body #5*** (by *Zac Thompson & Andy MacDonald*). The world is changing; minds are merging, and a Fungal God seeks vengeance. Battered and broken, Anne is trapped in the middle of it all, forced to choose whether she will save herself or the world.



Propelled into an alternate reality where the Cold War turned hot and America has been nuked, the McClean family has been captured by a paranoid military that believe them to be spies. Desperately searching for a way to get home, the McCleans uncover even darker secrets buried in the nuclear bunkers beneath Milwaukee in ***Nuclear Family #4*** (by *Stephanie Phillips & Tony Shasteen*).

A group of frightened psychics gather to learn how and why their gifts are killing them in ***Phantom on the Scan #2*** (by *Cullen Bunn & Mark Torres*). What is the mystery that binds them together? What is the source of their powers? And how is the clandestine Trellux Institute involved? As they pursue the answers to these questions, they discover that they're also being stalked by human killers—killers with powers of their own.

The attempt on Capone's life ignited a bloody battle among the Italians of Chicago. With war now raging, Nathaniel was realizing what he was: a tool used to patch up the gangsters he knew would kill again. He wants out, wants to undo what he's done... until a knock on his door changes everything in ***Shadow Doctor #4*** (by *Peter Calloway & Georges Jeanty*).

When a young roughneck lands in Silver City, the gritty, purgatorial metropolis of the afterlife, she must adapt to her new existence, while attempting to uncover how and why she died. Her mission is derailed, however, when she rescues a newly dead girl from a mysterious kidnapping attempt and discovers powerful, kinetic abilities in ***Silver City #1*** (by *Olivia Cuartero-Briggs & Luca Merli*).

AfterShock collected editions include:

- ***Dreaming Eagles TP,*** collecting ***Dreaming Eagles #s 1–6.***
- ***We Live Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***We Live #s 1–5.***

CSN TOP COMICS: MARCH

ACTION COMICS #1029

Phillip Kennedy Johnson, Becky Cloonan, Michael W. Conrad (W); Phil Hester, Eric Gapstur, Michael Avon Oeming (A)

(DC 0121DC025 $4.99)

SUPERMAN #29

Phillip Kennedy Johnson, Sean Lewis (W); Phil Hester, Eric Gapstur, Sami Basri (A)

(DC 0121DC023 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

When a monstrous foe from outer space attacks and nearly kills Clark, Jonathan Kent must consider the facts that his father died once before and the Legion of Super-Heroes told him he could die again. Any threat could be the one—including this one!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Brian Bendis may have bade farewell to Metropolis back in December, but DC continues its approach of having a single writer for the Superman saga as *Phillip Kennedy Johnson* jumps from ***DC Future State: House of El*** back to the present for a two-part story that spans ***Superman*** and ***Action Comics*** this month. Each issue also features a "Tale of Metropolis" backup story (Jimmy Olsen in ***Superman***, Midnighter in ***Action***) for readers eager to know more about the Man of Steel's supporting cast.

ALIEN #1

Phillip Kennedy Johnson (W); Salvador Larroca (A)

(Marvel JAN210568 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Gabriel Cruz gave his life to Weyland-Yutani—in the case of an alien attack he barely survived! Recently retired, Cruz is trying to patch things up with his abandoned son with the help of his friend, a Bishop-model android, but his re-entry into civilian life is not going smoothly—and his encounters with the deadly Xenomorph are far from over...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Phillip Kennedy Johnson seems to be the go-to guy when it comes to tales about immensely powerful aliens interacting with human beings! Rest assured, though, that the DCU's interaction with Superman is going to be a *lot* more pleasant than what Gabriel Cruz and company are going to face here!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #62

Nick Spencer (W); Patrick Gleason (A)

(Marvel JAN210651 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Kingpin makes it personal with Peter Parker, and New York City itself will pay the price as a fuse lit more than 30 issues ago reaches its explosive end.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Okay, let's face it—it's that new costume that'll have people clamoring for this one. Like it or hate it, you know it's gonna cause this issue to sell out in no time...

AMERICA CHAVEZ MADE IN USA #1 (OF 5)

Kalinda Vazquez (W); Carlos Gomez (A)

(Marvel APR200934 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

America Chavez is incredible—her origins, her strength, her dimension-shattering star portals! But when the foundation of everything she believes is shaken, America will stand up and face the parts of herself she's been running from.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Kalinda Vazquez & Carlos Gomez bring the fan-favorite heroine back for a five-issue run that explores America Chavez's background and origins.

BATMAN #106

James Tynion IV, Joshua Williamson (W); Jorge Jimenez, Gleb Melnikov (A)

(DC 0121DC027 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Following the tragic events of ***Infinite Frontier #0***, Batman and his new ally, Ghost-Maker, must reckon with a new gang operating in Gotham City—but are they connected to the reemergence of the Scarecrow? Meanwhile, shadowy billionaire Simon Saint pitches an advanced law-enforcement system to the new mayor!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The creative team behind "The Joker War" reunited for a new storyline, "The Cowardly Lot," while *Joshua Williamson & Gleb Melnikov* follow Damian as he attempts to find his way back to his mother, Talia Al Ghul in this issue's backup tale.

BATMAN: URBAN LEGENDS #1

Various (W/A)

(DC 0121DC003 $7.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Batman may be the biggest name in Gotham City, but there are lots of other heroes—and villains—who will get a turn to shine in this brand-new monthly series tying into the biggest events in Gotham City.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Chip Zdarsky & Eddy Barrows take on the Red Hood; *Matthew Rosenberg & Ryan Benjamin* reveal why Cole Cash, aka Grifter, is in Gotham; *Stephanie Phillips & Laura Braga* present a Harley tale set just before her new series launch; and *Brandon Thomas & Max Dunbar* reunite Black Lightning, Katana, and Metamorpho for a new Outsiders tale. And who knows—that Bat-guy may even make an appearance now and then!

BEQUEST #1

Tim Seeley (W); Freddie Williams II (A)

(AfterShock JAN211042 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Welcome to the high-fantasy world of Tangea! A land where wizards and warriors battle dragons in dark dank dungeons! Where thieves pillage ancient ruins and priests answer the words of their great gods!

Welcome to Chicago, Illinois! Where the magical items from Tangea are being traded on the black market and are messing everything up. Now, a group of Tangea adventurers must go undercover in our modern world to stop artifacts and monsters from falling into the wrong hands. But how will they fare in a world without wizards and warriors?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Love the way *Matt Kindt* blended fantasy and the real world in ***Folklords?*** Well, *Tim Seeley & Freddie Williams II* are breaking the barriers between the two once more in this high-concept series!

BETA RAY BILL #1 (OF 5) KIB

Daniel Warren Johnson (W/A)

(Marvel JAN210555 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

The second-most famous wielder of Mjolnir. The right-hand man to the god of Thunder. And now, a warrior without his best weapon. Beta Ray Bill is tired of playing second fiddle to Thor—and with Bill's famous hammer, Stormbreaker, recently destroyed at the new All-Father's hands, tensions are higher than ever. The Korbinite must strike out in search of a new weapon... and a new destiny. Assuming he can first defeat a Knullified Fin Fang Foom!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Oh, rest assured that we're on board for *any* Beta Ray Bill project—but you gotta admit that a Knullified Fin Fang Foom sounds pretty irresistible in his own right!

BLACK KNIGHT: CURSE OF THE EBONY BLADE #1 (OF 5)

Simon Spurrier (W); Sergio Davila (A)

(Marvel JAN210583 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Dane Whitman is the Black Knight and wielder of the magical Ebony Blade, but the blade's power comes at a terrible price. Dane forever bears the burden of its curse: an insatiable lust for blood and mayhem that constantly threatens to swallow its owner in darkness. Must that be Dane's fate?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Simon Spurrier & Sergio Davila explore the history of the Black Knight in this ***King in Black*** spinoff series that also guest-stars the Avengers. At last, you can learn all the sworded details!...

CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE #1

Various (W/A)

(Marvel JAN210611 $5.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Captain America celebrates 80 years of battling tyranny this month! And what better way to celebrate than by having a cadre of Marvel's best artists redraw and modernize Captain America's origin and the debut of the Red Skull from ***Captain America Comics #1*** as well as Cap's return in the Marvel Age from ***Avengers #4!***

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Marvel did this for the first time with their ***Giant Size X-Men #1*** tribute, and now they've enlisted some of comics most talented artists to reinterpret *Jack Kirby's* two landmark red-white-and-blue artistic accomplishments in a tribute to *Joe Simon, Jack Kirby,* and *Stan Lee.*

CARNAGE: BLACK, WHITE AND BLOOD #1 (OF 4)

Donny Cates & others (W); Sara Pichelli & others (A)

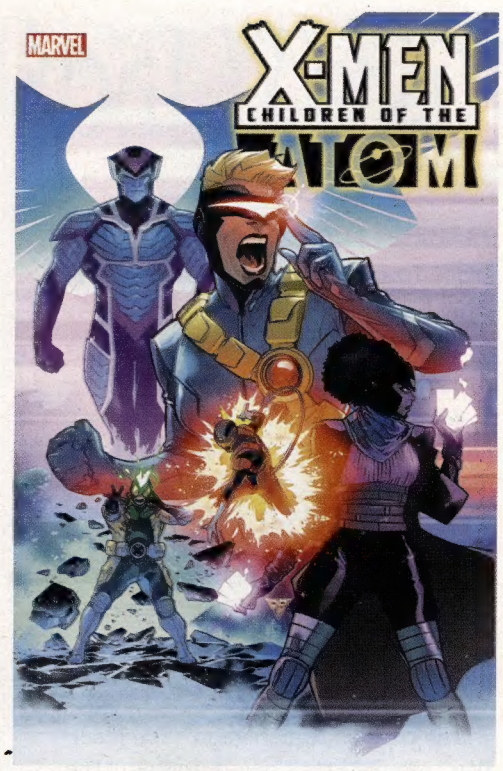
(Marvel JAN210599 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Witness the cerebral chaos caused by Carnage, brought to life by some of the greatest creators at Marvel! But beware: These spine-chilling tales are not for the faint of heart...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

It's not just standalone tales by some of comics' most talented creators presented in black and white—it's tales by some of comics' most talented creators presented in black, white, and red... errr, blood... oh, whatever. You get the idea—and this is a great way to show off some outstanding linework!



CHILDREN OF ATOM #1

Vita Ayala (W); Bernard Chang (A)

(Marvel FEB200860 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

They've learned from the best; now they're ready to be put to the test! But who the heck are these kids, and where do they come from?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The X-Men guest-star in this series that introduces a new teenage superhero mutant team. (Of course, some of us have been reading comics long enough that we remember when the X-Men were the new teenage superhero mutant team...)

CRIME SYNDICATE #1

Andy Schmidt (W); Kieran McKeown, Bryan Hitch (A)

(DC 0121DC044 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Spinning out of ***Dark Nights: Death Metal,*** the Multiverse is reborn—and Earth-3 with it! In this six-issue miniseries, witness the true origins of the Crime Syndicate as a common foe unites them! But how long can alliances last between villains like these?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Think of 'em as the Mirror Universe Justice League—but it's really a lot more complicated than that! One reason *not* to miss this issue: *Bryan Hitch* supplies a back-up story revealing the origin of Ultraman!

CULT OF DRACULA #1 (OF 6)

Rich Davis (W); Henry Martinez (A)

(Source Point JAN211539 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Special Agent Malcom Bram arrives at the House of the Rising Sun, a secluded compound that is the home of the secretive Ordo Dracul... and the scene of a horrendous crime called "The Cult of Dracula Mass Suicides." Mina Murray leads a documentary film crew to uncover the secrets of the mysterious cult by interviewing its enigmatic leader, Robert Renfield. Neither investigator is prepared for the gravity of the truths they will uncover.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Dracula meets *Jim Jones* in this thought-provoking tale inspired by *Bram Stoker's* classic. And you can *never* get too much Dracula...

DEADPOOL NERDY 30 #1

Various (W/A)

(Marvel JAN210636 $5.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Deadpool's turning 30! And to help celebrate, Marvel has assembled some of his classic storytellers to tell tales of Wade Wilson birthdays past, present, and future! A first birthday with time-traveling assassins! A sweet-16 party that would make Molly Ringwald weep! A 100th birthday that could only be celebrated in grand Deadpool style! It's all here!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Fifty-six pages for $5.99—in today's market, that's a pretty big birthday gift right there! And with a creative team that includes *Skottie Young, Kelly Thompson, Daniel Way, Fabian Nicieza, Joe Kelly, Gerry Duggan & Brian Posehn, Rob Liefeld,* and *Ed McGuinness,* this is a must-have for anyone who's ever enjoyed the antics of the Merc with the Mouth.

DEMON DAYS: X-MEN #1

Peach Momoko (W/A)

(Marvel JAN210618 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

A wandering swordswoman with a psychic blade arrives at village that's being targeted by demons. One demon is black and white with a terrifying red tongue, and another may be the strongest demon there is! It's all in this revolutionary reimagination of the Marvel Universe,

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Take a look at the creative credit. Written by *Peach Momoko.* Drawn by *Peach Momoko.* Cover by *Peach Momoko.* And it's the first of five quarterly issues. Now that's peachy keen!

FIREFLY: BRAND NEW 'VERSE #1

Josh Lee Gordon (W); Fabiana Mascolo (A)

(Boom! JAN210944 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Twenty years after the events of ***Firefly,*** Serenity soars the 'Verse once again with a new captain—Emma, the daughter of Wash and Zoë! The old crew of Serenity have gone their own ways, and now Emma is working to prove herself to Zoë, alongside a new crew of castaways and misfits just trying to stay afloat. But when Serenity takes a job from a familiar face, they discover that their new, living, breathing cargo is far more than they bargained for... and might bring them into conflict with Alliance once again! *Josh Lee Gordon* ***(Firefly: Bad Company)*** and *Fabiana Mascolo* ***(Yasmeen)*** begin a new era for *Joss Whedon's* ***Firefly*** with first appearances of an all-new cast, new adventures, and shocking new surprises!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Firefly: The Next Generation? We're on board for that one!

HARLEY QUINN #1

Stephanie Phillips (W); Riley Rossmo (A)

(DC 0121DC013 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Harley heads to Gotham City to make up for the sins of her past and help the city recover from "The Joker War." But there's no welcoming committee waiting for her; instead, they're working to keep the city broken...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Villainous Harley gives way to reluctant hero Harley in this relaunch—and she gets some new duds to celebrate her new mission!

INFINITE FRONTIER #0 (ONESHOT)

Various (W/A)

(DC 0121DC001 $5.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

In Gotham City, Joker jolts citizens awake with an attack even the Dark Knight never expected. In Brazil, a young woman discovers her destiny and her connection to the Amazons. In Belle Reve, Amanda Waller plots an invasion of Arkham Asylum. In the far reaches of space, Mongul dreams of galactic domination, while the Green Lantern Corps hosts a summit of its greatest enemies. At the Hall of Justice, the League joins forces with Black Adam. Beyond the mortal world, Wonder Woman settles into a new role in the godsphere. And somewhere in the DC Universe—it's the return of Stargirl in an all-new tale written by *Geoff Johns*!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

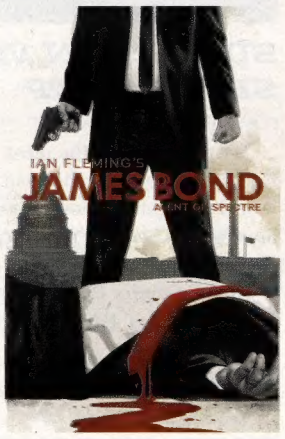
Dark Nights: Death Metal presented the darkest threats of the Multiverse. ***DC Future State*** revealed what may lie ahead. Now it's time to look into the ***Infinite Frontier*** of the current-day DC Universe. This oversized, all-star issue kicks off the new direction of the DCU for 2021 and beyond.

JAMES BOND: AGENT OF SPECTRE #1

Christos Gage (W); Luca Casalanguida (A)
(Dynamite JAN210788 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

An upstart American member of the international criminal organization SPECTRE is attempting a coup, threatening to depose Ernst Stavro Blofeld. She's on guard against Blofeld's men, so to take her out, Blofeld recruits a wild card: James Bond! With Blofeld threatening the life of Bond's friend Felix Leiter as leverage, Bond agrees... but he has a plan to use this internal strife to bring SPECTRE down once and for all.



WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

We've seen secret agent James Bond plenty of times, but *double* agent James Bond?... not so much!

JOKER #1

James Tynion IV, Sam Johns (W); Guillem March, Mirka Andolfo (A)
(DC 0121DC007 $4.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Following the events of ***Infinite Frontier #0***, Joker is the most wanted man in the world! But the Clown Prince of Crime is several steps ahead of law enforcement—and he's on the run overseas. James Gordon, facing retirement, realizes this is the manhunt of his life and the last piece of a storied career... but what mysterious and deadly forces are also in pursuit of Joker? And in the backup story, Punchline navigates the infrastructure of Blackgate Penitentiary—while on the outside, Harper Row takes up the mantle of Bluebird to stop her brother from falling under Punchline's influence.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The Joker and Punchline in their own ongoing series? That's enough to bring a big grin to every Bat-fan!

KARMEN #1

Guillem March (W/A)
(Image JAN210009 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Meet a highly unconventional angel named Karmen and the young woman she takes under her wing when a case of heartbreak strikes hard in this five-part series that blends metaphysical drama, tenderness, and humor.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Fans are already familiar with *Guillem March* as one of DC's most popular artists, but this series reveals that his writing skills are just as impressive as his illustrative talents.

MARIA LLOVET'S EROS/PSYCHE #1

Maria Llovet (W/A)
(Ablaze JAN210998 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

La Rosa's female boarding school is paradise for young girls... but only if you follow the rules. Because, if you disobey them, you can end up expelled—or even worse, dead. Sara and Silje are two students learning the rules of the school, which includes classes by day... and the casting of curses and spells by night...

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The artist of the best-selling ***Faithless*** series presents her own tale of love, magic, and erotic suspense.

NOCTERRA #1

Scott Snyder (W); Tony S. Daniel (A)
(Image JAN210016 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Ten years after the world is plunged into an everlasting night that turns all living creatures into monstrous shades, the only way to survive is to stay close to artificial light. Enter Valentina "Val" Riggs, a skilled ferryman who transports people and goods along deadly unlit roads with her heavily illuminated 18-wheeler.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Two of the Batman's most popular talents reunite for this first-ever joint venture at Image—and the story kicks off with an extra-sized first issue!

SILK #1 (OF 5)

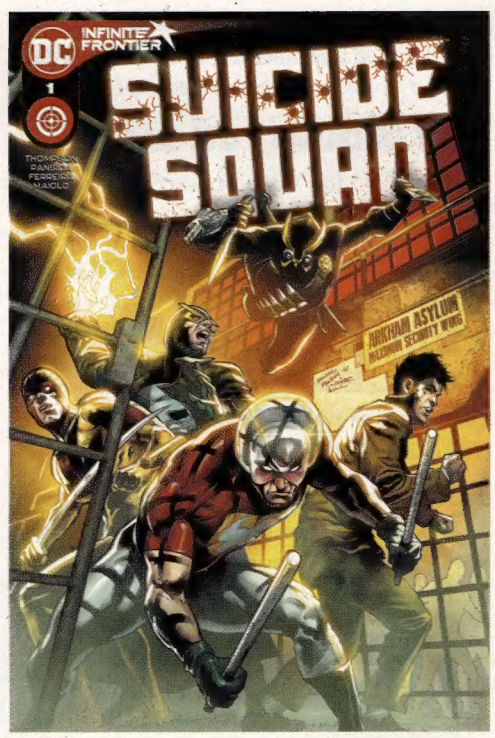
Maurene Goo (W); Takeshi Miyazawa (A)
(Marvel JAN210604 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

By day Cindy Moon is an intrepid reporter for the upstart new media empire, Threats & Menaces, under her old boss, J. Jonah Jameson. By night, she's Silk, crime-fighting superhero! But those worlds are about to collide as an investigation into a series of gangland murders puts Silk and everyone she loves in danger! Who is this powerful new player in New York's underworld; where did she come from, and what is she doing with that strange cat demon?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Bitten by a radioactive spider... working for J. Jonah Jameson... protecting the city with amazing spider-powers... Sure, it all sounds familiar—but it's also distinctively different, and that's what makes Silk's story so much fun!



SUICIDE SQUAD #1

Robbie Thompson (W); Eduardo Pansica (A)
(DC 0121DC017 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Things have changed for Task Force X. As Peacemaker takes over as field leader, there will be no more avenging or defending for the government's top-secret task force of killers, thieves, and criminals. Amanda Waller—now back in control of the Squad—sends a new Squad into Arkham Asylum to "recruit" the deadly Court of Owls assassin Talon while she interviews another new candidate: Superboy.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

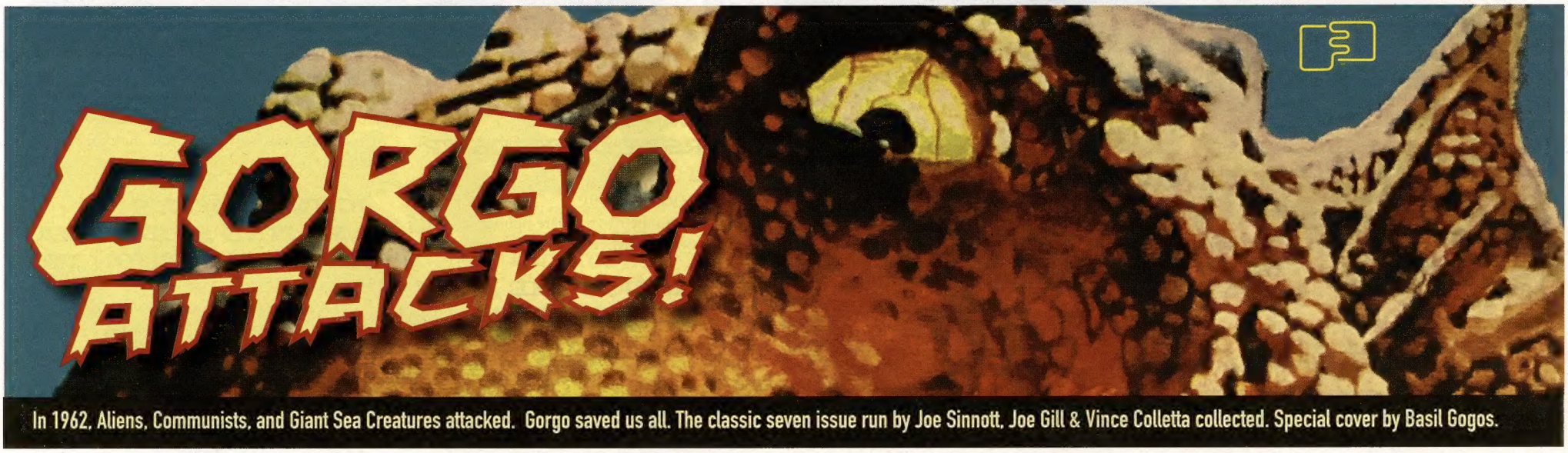
Adding Superboy to the mix amps up the excitement for this secret-superteam series.

SWAMP THING #1 (OF 10)

Ram V (W); Mike Perkins (A)
(DC 0121DC019 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Unable to control his transformation into the monstrous Swamp Thing, Levi Kamei is thrust into the mystery of grisly murders committed by a supernatural desert legend. Levi must revisit past events in his homeland of India and face the deadly reality of a ravenous new villain in order to compre-



In 1962, Aliens, Communists, and Giant Sea Creatures attacked. Gorgo saved us all. The classic seven issue run by Joe Sinnott, Joe Gill & Vince Colletta collected. Special cover by Basil Gogos.

hend what he is becoming. A new era of global action and horror blossoms here, and Swamp Thing will be at the root of it!

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Ram V & Mike Perkins branch out in new directions with the introduction of the next Swamp Thing in the kickoff issue of a 10-part series.

TEEN TITANS ACADEMY #1

Tim Sheridan (W); Rafa Sandoval (A)
(DC 0121DC021 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Welcome to Teen Titans Academy! Packed with both new, superpowered teens and numerous dark secrets, Teen Titans Academy's student body includes Shazam!, a new Australian speedster, and a trio of Goth(am) teen expatriates obsessed with Batman—and one member of this first class will become the deadly Red X. Original New Teen Titans including Nightwing, Starfire, Raven, Cyborg, and Beast Boy take on the roles of teachers and mentors for superpowered teens. Their goal: to shape the next generation of heroes.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Something old, something new—there's plenty of both in this new series that casts the fan-favorite Titans as teachers for the next generation of heroes.

WITCHBLOOD #1

Matthew Erman (W); Lisa Sterle (A)
(Vault JAN211628 $3.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Join a witch named Yonna on a modern, wild-west road trip across the southwest, pursued by a band of bloodthirsty biker vampires who seek to locate her scattered coven for the source of all magic: witch blood.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Think ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer*** meets ***American Gods,*** and you have some idea what to expect from this action-packed supernatural adventure.

WONDER WOMAN: EARTH ONE VOL 3 HC

Grant Morrison (W); Yanick Paquette (A)
(DC DEC207060 $29.99)

WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Diana, now queen of the Amazons, must assemble the disparate Amazonian tribes for the first time in a millennium. Maxwell Lord's assault on Paradise Island with his destructive ARES armor is on the horizon, and in order to weather the war that is coming, Wonder Woman will need the full might of her sisters by her side! Can Diana finally bring her message of peace to Man's World, or will Max Lord's war burn the world and the Amazons to ashes?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The good news? *Grant Morrison & Yanick Paquette* are back with a new ***Wonder Woman: Earth One*** graphic novel. The bad news? It's the final volume in the trilogy that raised the bar for the whole ***Earth One*** line.

Collected Cool: March's Best Reprint Editions

BATMAN: ARKHAM—TALIA AL GHUL TP

(DC DEC207090 $29.99)

Delve into one of the most compelling characters in the Batman mythos in this collection spotlighting Talia al Ghul—daughter of the Demon.

BLACK PANTHER EPIC COLLECTION TP: PANTHER'S PREY

(Marvel OCT200716 $39.99)

Some of *Don McGregor's* finest comics work is collected here, including ***Black Panther: Panther's Prey #s 1–4,*** the Panther tales from ***Marvel Comics Presents #s 13–37,*** and more.

CAPTAIN AMERICA EPIC COLLECTION TP: LIVES AGAIN

(Marvel DEC200675 $39.99)

Re-presenting the Silver Age return of Captain America, this volume includes ***Avengers #4, Strange Tales #114,*** and ***Tales of Suspense #s 58–96,*** featuring classic work by *Stan Lee, Jack Kirby,* and others.

CONAN BARBARIAN EPIC COLLECTION: ORIGINAL MARVEL YEARS TP—HAWKS FROM SEA

(Marvel DEC200674 $34.99)

The last half of the *Roy Thomas–Barry Windsor-Smith* ***Conan*** run is collected in this trade that also includes material by comics legends *Gil Kane* and *John Buscema.*

DAREDEVIL BY CHIP ZDARSKY HC VOL 1: TO HEAVEN THROUGH HELL

(Marvel SEP200731 $34.99)

Collecting the first 10 issues of *Chip Zdarsky's* bold redefining of Marvel's Man Without Fear.

DRACULA: VLAD THE IMPALER GN

(IDW NOV200420 $15.99)

Roy Thomas & Esteban Maroto explore the life of the man who inspired *Bram Stoker's* famous vampire in this collection of ***Vlad the Impaler #s 1–4,*** presented here in black and white to show off Maroto's striking linework.

FANTASTIC FOUR EPIC COLLECTION TP: THE MASTER PLAN OF DOCTOR DOOM

(Marvel DEC200676 $39.99)

Doctor Doom, the Hulk, Nick Fury, the Watcher, the Sub-Mariner, the X-Men... they all cross paths with Marvel's First Family in this collection of ***Fantastic Four #s 19–32 & Annuals 1–2.***

FANTASTIC FOUR: ANTITHESIS TREASURY EDITION TP

(Marvel DEC200664 $34.99)

Mark Waid & Neal Adams's cosmic four-part series is presented in a supersized treasury edition that adds a pair of classic tales by Waid and Adams for good measure.

GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(Marvel SEP200709 $100.00)

The entirety of *Joe Simon & Jack Kirby's* ***Captain America*** run—and more!— is presented in this collection of ***Captain America Comics #s 1–12.***

MICHAEL TURNER: CREATIONS HC

(Aspen JAN211111 $125.00)

This comprehensive 700+–page collection of *Michael Turner's* Aspen Comics work includes the full first volumes of ***Fathom*** and ***Soulfire,*** along with his entire ***Ekos*** body of work and a complete ***Fathom*** cover gallery!

SANDMAN THE DELUXE EDITION BOOK 2 HC (MR)

(DC COMICS UCS20100154 - 1020DC154 $49.99)

This deluxe edition of *Neil Gaiman's* ***Sandman*** includes ***Sandman #s 17–31 & Special #1*** and much more, including bonus content and a new cover.

SPIDER-MAN BY TODD MCFARLANE COMPLETE COLLECTION TP

(Marvel DEC200670 $39.99)

After *Todd McFarlane* left ***Amazing Spider-Man,*** he launched the best-selling ***Spider-Man*** series in 1990. This volume collects his entire body of work for that title, as originally presented in ***Spider-Man #s 1–14 & 16*** and ***X-Force #4*** (a Spidey crossover tale).

STILLWATER BY ZDARSKY & PEREZ TP VOL 1

(Image JAN210116 $16.99)

Venture into the town where nobody dies in this collection of ***Stillwater #s 1–6.***

SUPERMAN: THE LAST SON DELUXE EDITION HC

(DC COMICS UCS20100159 - 1020DC159 $49.99)

Geoff Johns' two most acclaimed stories are presented in this collection of ***Action Comics #s 844–846, 851, & 866–870,*** and ***Action Comics Annual #11.***

SUPERMAN VS SHAZAM! TP

(DC DEC207108 $24.99)

Witness some of the most memorable confrontations between the Man of Steel and the World's Mightiest Mortal in this collection of ***Superman #216, The Power of Shazam! #46, Kingdom Come #4, DC Comics Presents #s 33–34 & 49, DC Comics Presents Annual #3,*** and ***All-New Collectors' Edition #C-58.***

X-MEN EPIC COLLECTION: FATE OF PHOENIX TP

(Marvel DEC200672 $39.99)

Two of *Chris Claremont & John Byrne's* most acclaimed story arcs, the Dark Phoenix saga and Days of Future Past, are featured in this collection of ***X-Men #s 129–141, Uncanny X-Men #s 142–143,*** and more.

X-MEN EPIC COLLECTION: SENTINELS LIVE TP

(Marvel DEC200671 $39.99)

Both *Barry Windsor-Smith's* short run and *Neal Adams's* historic tenure on ***X-Men*** are featured in this collection of ***X-Men #s 46–66, Ka-Zar #s 2–3,*** and more.

FYI: : Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

BACK ISSUE #126

(TwoMorrows DEC201729 $9.95)

Get ready for a heaping helping of Flash Facts in this special issue spotlighting Wally West as the Flash, *Brandon Routh* as Superman, Scott Lang as Ant-Man, and the *John Romita* Legacy, plus more!

CREATE A COMIC ONE SHOT

(Scout/Scoot! JAN211524 $3.99)

Scout's all-ages imprint Scoot! presents a how-to for young creators. Color the stories, fill in the word balloons, and even draw the characters, using artwork examples for reference!

JOHN ROMITA'S AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ARTISAN EDITION TP

(IDW NOV200362 $39.99)

This collection features scans of *John Romita's* original art for ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 67, 78, 69, 71, 75, & 84*** plus extras, all reproduced in ultra-high detail to show off the intricacy of Romita's linework. The only difference between this and the out-of-print Artist's Edition is that this is a smaller trim size for a *much* more affordable price.

MANGA WATERCOLOR STEP BY STEP MANGA ART TECHNIQUES SC

(David & Charles JAN211832 $19.99)

Learn how to create manga art from pencil sketch to finished painting with this comprehensive guide.

MARVEL COMICS IN THE 1970S EXPANDED EDITION TP

(TwoMorrows JAN211615 $29.95)

Marvel Comics in the 1970s covers Marvel's final historical phase: the twilight years of the 1970s, after the initial '60s wave of popularity pushed the company to the forefront of the comics industry and made many of its characters household names. This is the era when *Jack Kirby* left Marvel, when *Stan Lee* stepped back from his role as writer to helm the company, when *Roy Thomas* shaped the direction of the company, and when an amazing array of talented writers and artists took Marvel in a new direction. This edition includes 16 extra pages not available in the original hardcover.

MARVEL COMICS VARIANT COVERS HC

(Insight JAN211396 $45.00)

Hard to believe that the variant cover craze is more than a third of a century old, isn't it? Well, this volume offers a historical overview of some of Marvel's most striking variants spotlighting Spider-Man, Captain America, Iron Man, Black Panther, the X-Men, and many more.

REED CRANDALL: ILLUSTRATOR OF COMICS SC

(TwoMorrows JAN211616 $39.95)

Perhaps comics' finest fine-line illustrator, Crandall had a career spanning almost four decades. Horror, historical, war, Western, superhero, science fiction—Crandall illustrated it all. This softcover edition offers a look at Crandall's life and career, from his early years and major successes through his tragic decline and passing in 1982.

TERRY MOORE'S HOW TO DRAW EXPANDED EDITION SC

(Abstract JAN211032 $19.99)

Terry Moore's How to Draw Expanded Edition includes lessons on How To Draw Women, Expressions, Beautiful, and Funny, plus a detailed lesson on drawing and making comic books. This expanded edition adds new chapters on Body Language, Lettering, and Page Layouts, with an emphasis on Timing and Visual Effect. If you want to learn, why not learn from one of the best?

Hot Commodities: March's Best Merchandising & Collectibles

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER GALLERY BUFFY PVC STATUE

(Diamond NOV201954 $49.99)

Buffy the Vampire Slayer returns to Diamond Select Toys in this brand-new Gallery Diorama designed by *Caesar* and sculpted by *Jorge Santos Souza.*

DC COMIC LEGENDS IN 3D WONDER WOMAN 1/2-SCALE BUST

(Diamond NOV201960 $175.00)

The Amazonian heroine joins the Diamond Select's ***Legends in 3D*** line of half-scale busts in her look from the ***Justice League*** animated series. Designed by *Joe Allard*, sculpted by *Varner Studios*

MARVEL COMICS DOCTOR DOOM BUST

(Diamond Select OCT201997 $79.99)

Measuring approximately 6" tall, this mini-bust of Victor Von Doom is limited to only 3,000 pieces and features detailed sculpting and paint applications. Designed by *Nelson X. Asencio*, sculpted by *Juan Pitluk.*

MARVEL GALLERY COMIC STORM PVC STATUE

(Diamond NOV201955 $49.99)

The goddess of the X-Men rises from a swirling cloud in this all-new Gallery Diorama designed by *Caesar* and sculpted by *Alejandro Pereira.*

MARVEL LEGENDS IN 3D CARNAGE 1/2-SCALE BUST

(Diamond NOV201957 $175.00)

This half-scale bust of Carnage, based on his comics appearance, shows Carnage baring his teeth as tendrils of symbiote grip his architectural pedestal. Designed by *Joe Allard*, sculpted by *Rocco Tartamella*!

MARVEL PREMIER COLLECTION LOGAN MOVIE STATUE

(Diamond NOV201959 $175.00)

Hugh Jackman's last outing as Wolverine is now the newest Premier Collection statue from Diamond Select! Sculpted by *Rocco Tartamella.*

MARVEL UNIVERSE MAXIMUM CARNAGE FINE ART STATUE

(Kotobukiya NOV202286 $245.00)

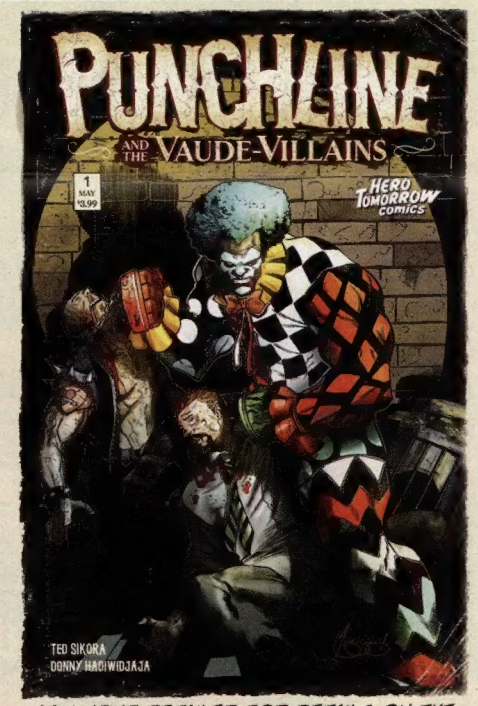
The malicious and destructive Carnage returns to Kotobukiya's Fine Art line—and with the included expansion base, users can also attach ARTFX Venom to this statue to recreate the battle between the two symbiotes!

TED SIKORA, CREATOR OF TAP DANCE KILLER & APAMA, PRESENTS

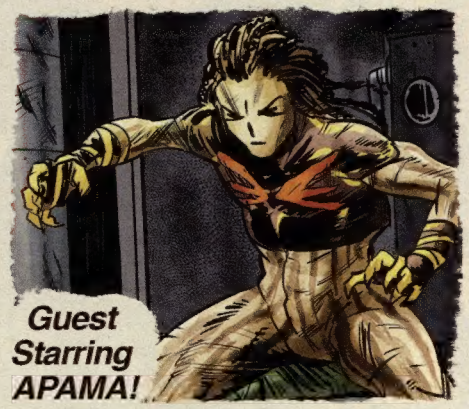
Drayton Hayes is a heavyweight boxer who was kidnapped by a bizarre troupe of scoundrels calling themselves the ***Vaude-Villains***, then transformed into the super-powered murderous clown ***Punchline*** *(Debut Tap Dance Killer #1 April 2018.)*

Punchline is about to throwdown with the main superhero from the **Hero Tomorrow Comics** universe, ***Apama***, in a series that turns on a dime from horror to comedy to supernatural!

DIAMOND EXCLUSIVE RETRO VARIANT BY J. GONZO



ASK YOUR RETAILER FOR DETAILS ON THE INCENTIVE COVER BY EDER MESSIAS



STORY & COLORS BY TED SIKORA
ART BY DONNY HADIWIDJAJA

PREVIEW PAGES AT
HEROTOMORROW.COM